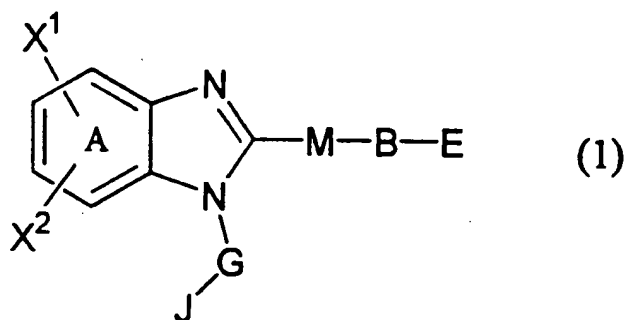


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended): A method of inhibiting human chymase activity, comprising administering to a subject an effective amount of ~~An inhibitor against human chymase activity containing~~ a benzimidazole derivative expressed by the following formula (1) or its pharmaceutically permissible salt ~~as an active ingredient,~~



[in the formula (1), the ring marked with A expresses ~~a pyridine ring or~~ a benzene ring;

X¹ and X² are each at the same time or independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a trihalomethyl group, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, -CH₂NH₂, -CH=NR¹, -CH=NOR¹ or -CONR¹R² (here, R¹ and R² are each a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₄ alkyl group), -COOR³ (here, R³ is a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₄ alkyl group), a substituted or unsubstituted C₁₋₆ normal, cyclic or branched alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkoxyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted

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C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkylthio group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkylsulfonyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkylsulfinyl group {the substituent permissible to the groups is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, an acyl group, a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, a phenyl group, an oxo group or a phenoxy group optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, and the substituent may substitute singly or plurally independently at arbitrary position(s)};

A2
cov.t.
B is a substituted or unsubstituted C₁₋₆ normal, cyclic or branched alkylene group or a substituted or unsubstituted C₂₋₆ normal or branched alkenylene group {the substituent permissible to the groups is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, a C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkoxyl group (including the case where adjacent two groups form an acetal bonding), a C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkylthio group, a C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkylsulfonyl group, a C₁₋₆ normal or branched acyl group, a C₁₋₆ normal or branched acylamino group, a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, a phenyl group, an oxo group or a phenoxy group optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, and the substituent may substitute singly or plurally independently at arbitrary position(s) of the alkylene group or an alkenylene group; between atoms, the alkylene group or alkenylene group optionally contains one or more of -O-, -S-, -SO₂- or -NR⁴-, but this atom or atomic group does not bond directly to the M, and here R⁴ is a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkyl group};

E expresses ~~-COOR⁴, -SO₃R⁴, -CONHR⁵, -SO₂NHR⁴, PO(OR⁶)₂, a tetrazol-5-yl group, a 5-oxo-1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl group or~~

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~~a 5-oxo-1,2,4-thiadiazol-3-yl group (here, R⁴ is similarly defined as above; R⁵ is a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, or a C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkyl group; R⁶ is a hydrogen atom, a C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkyl group, or trifluoromethylsulfonyl group, or its pharmaceutically permissible salt);~~

A2
COO₂.
G is a substituted or unsubstituted C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkylene group {between atoms, the alkylene group optionally contains one or more of -O-, -S-, -SO₂- or -NR⁴-, but this atom or atomic group does not bond directly to the nitrogen atom of the imidazole ring (R⁴ is similarly defined as above), and the substituent is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, a C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkoxyl group (including the case where adjacent two groups form an acetal bonding), a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, a phenyl group or an oxo group};

J is ~~a substituted or unsubstituted C₁₋₆ normal, cyclic or branched alkyl group,~~ a substituted or unsubstituted C₄₋₁₀ aryl group {the substituent permissible to the groups is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, -COOR⁷ (here, R⁷ is a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₄ alkyl group), a C₁₋₆ normal, cyclic or branched alkyl group, a C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkoxyl group (including the case where adjacent two groups form an acetal bonding), a C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkylthio group, a C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkylsulfonyl group, a C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkylsulfinyl group, a C₁₋₆ acyl group, a C₁₋₆ normal or branched acylamino group, a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, a phenyl group, an oxo group, or a phenoxy group optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms; the substituent may substitute singly or plurally independently at arbitrary position(s) of the ~~alkyl group or aryl~~

group; and the substituent is further optionally substituted with a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, an acyl group, a trihalomethyl group, a phenyl group, an oxo group or a phenoxy group optionally substituted with a halogen atom}; and

M is a sulfur atom, a sulfinyl group, or a sulfonyl group, ~~a single bond or CR^8R^9 (here, R^8 and R^9 are each at the same time or independently a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group)]~~.

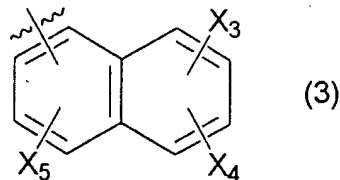
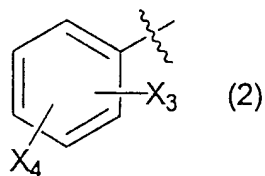
2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

A2
cont.

4. (Currently Amended): The method ~~An inhibitor against human chymase~~ activity set forth in ~~one out of~~ Claims 1 ~~to 3~~ wherein X^1 and X^2 in the above formula (1) are each at the same time or independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a trihalomethyl group, a cyano group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-3} normal or branched alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-3} normal or branched alkoxy group, or a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-3} normal or branched alkylthio group.

5. (Currently Amended): The method ~~An inhibitor against human chymase~~ activity set forth in ~~one out of~~ Claims 1 ~~to 4~~ wherein J in ~~the above~~ formula (1) is a group described in the following formula (2) or (3),



[here, X^3 , X^4 and X^5 are each at the same time or independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, $-\text{COOR}^7$ (here, R^7 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group), a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-3} normal or branched alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-3} normal or branched alkoxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-3} normal or branched alkylthio group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-3} normal or branched alkylsulfonyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-3} normal or branched alkylsulfinyl group; there is no limitation regarding the substitution positions of X^3 , X^4 and X^5 on the benzene ring or the naphthalene ring].

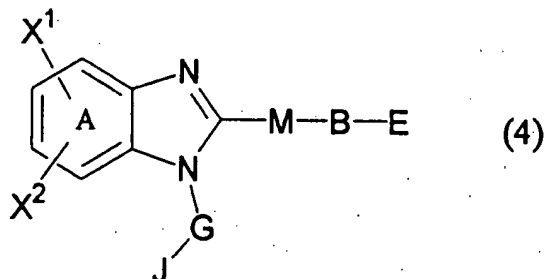
A2
COOH
6. (Currently Amended): The method ~~An inhibitor against human chymase activity~~
set forth in ~~one out of~~ Claims 1 to 5 wherein M in the above mentioned formula (1) is a sulfur atom.

7. (Currently Amended): The method ~~An inhibitor against human chymase activity~~
set forth in ~~one out of~~ Claims 1 to 6 wherein B in the above mentioned formula (1) is a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal, cyclic or branched alkylene group.

8. (Currently Amended): The method ~~An inhibitor against human chymase activity~~
set forth in ~~one out of~~ Claims 1 to 7 wherein G in the above mentioned formula (1) is $-\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CO}-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O}-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{CONH}-$, $-\text{CO}-$, $-\text{SO}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{SO}_2-$, $-\text{CH}_2\text{S}-$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{S}-$ (J bonds to the right side of said group).

9. (Currently Amended): The method ~~An inhibitor against human chymase activity~~
set forth in ~~one out of~~ Claims 1 to 8 wherein E in the above mentioned formula (1) is $-\text{COOH}$.

10. (Currently Amended): A benzimidazole derivative expressed by the following formula (4) or its pharmaceutically permissible salt,



Ad
CSO:1
~~[in the formula (4), the definitions of the ring marked with A, and X¹, X², B, E, G, J and M are same as those in the above formula (1); however, excepting the case where~~

[in the formula (4), the ring marked with A expresses a benzene ring;

X¹ and X² are each at the same time or independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a trihalomethyl group, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, -CH₂NH₂, -CH=NR¹, -CH=NOR¹ or -CONR¹R² (here, R¹ and R² are each a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₄ alkyl group), -COOR³ (here, R³ is a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₄ alkyl group), a substituted or unsubstituted C₁₋₆ normal, cyclic or branched alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₃₋₇ cycloalkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkoxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkylthio group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkylsulfonyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkylsulfinyl group
{the substituent permissible to the groups is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, an acyl group, a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, a phenyl group, an

oxo group or a phenoxy group optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, and the substituent may substitute singly or plurally independently at arbitrary position(s)};

AZ
cont.

B is a substituted or unsubstituted C₁₋₆ normal, cyclic or branched alkylene group or a substituted or unsubstituted C₂₋₆ normal or branched alkenylene group {the substituent permissible to the groups is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, a C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkoxy group (including the case where adjacent two groups form an acetal bonding), a C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkylthio group, a C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkylsulfonyl group, a C₁₋₆ normal or branched acyl group, a C₁₋₆ normal or branched acylamino group, a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, a phenyl group, an oxo group or a phenoxy group optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, and the substituent may substitute singly or plurally independently at arbitrary position(s) of the alkylene group or an alkenylene group; between atoms, the alkylene group or alkenylene group optionally contains one or more of -O-, -S-, -SO₂- or -NR⁴-, but this atom or atomic group does not bond directly to the M, and here R⁴ is a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkyl group};

E expresses -COOR⁴;

G is a substituted or unsubstituted C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkylene group {between atoms, the alkylene group optionally contains one or more of -O-, -S-, -SO₂- or -NR⁴-, but this atom or atomic group does not bond directly to the nitrogen atom of the imidazole ring (R⁴ is similarly defined as above), and the substituent is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, a C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkoxy group (including the case where

adjacent two groups form an acetal bonding), a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, a phenyl group or an oxo group};

AZ
COO4.
J is a substituted or unsubstituted C₄₋₁₀ aryl group {the substituent permissible to the groups is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, -COOR⁷ (here, R⁷ is a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₄ alkyl group), a C₁₋₆ normal, cyclic or branched alkyl group, a C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkoxyl group (including the case where adjacent two groups form an acetal bonding), a C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkylthio group, a C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkylsulfonyl group, a C₁₋₆ normal or branched alkylsulfinyl group, a C₁₋₆ acyl group, a C₁₋₆ normal or branched acylamino group, a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, a phenyl group, an oxo group, or a phenoxy group optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms; the substituent may substitute singly or plurally independently at arbitrary position(s) of the aryl group; and the substituent is further optionally substituted with a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, an acyl group, a trihalomethyl group, a phenyl group, an oxo group or a phenoxy group optionally substituted with a halogen atom); and

M is a sulfur atom, a sulfinyl group, or sulfonyl group provided that when at least one of X¹ and X² is a cyano group, -CH₂NH₂, -CH=NR¹, -CH=NOR¹ or -CONR¹R² (here, R¹ and R² are each a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₄ alkyl group), J expresses only a substituted naphthalene ring].

11. **(Currently Amended):** A benzimidazole derivative or its pharmaceutically permissible salt set forth in Claim 10 wherein X¹ and X² ~~in the above formula (4)~~ are each a hydrogen atom, a cyano group, -CH₂NH₂, -CH=NR¹, -CH=NOR¹ or -CONR¹R² (here, R¹ and R² are each a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₄ alkyl group; X¹ and X² are not hydrogen at the same time).

AA
COO.T.

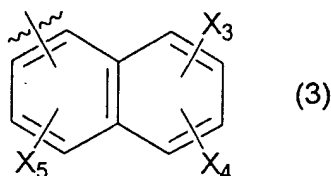
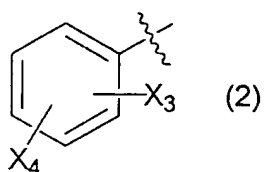
12. **(Currently Amended):** A benzimidazole derivative or its pharmaceutically permissible salt set forth in Claim 10 wherein X^1 and X^2 ~~in the above formula (4)~~ are each at the same time or independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a trihalomethyl group, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, ~~$CH=NR^1$ (here, R^1 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group),~~ $-COOR^3$ (here, R^3 is a hydrogen atom or a C_{1-4} alkyl group), a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal, cyclic or branched alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{3-7} cycloalkyl, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal or branched alkoxyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylthio group, a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylsulfonyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted C_{1-6} normal or branched alkylsulfinyl group (the substituent permissible to the groups is a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, an acyl group, a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, a phenyl group, an oxo group or a phenoxy group optionally substituted with one or more halogen atoms, and the substituent may substitute singly or plurally independently at arbitrary position(s)).

13. **(Currently Amended):** A benzimidazole derivative or its pharmaceutically permissible salt set forth in Claim 10 wherein X^1 and X^2 ~~in the above formula (4)~~ are each a hydrogen atom or a cyano group (here, X^1 and X^2 can not be hydrogen atoms at the same time).

14. **(Currently Amended):** A benzimidazole derivative or its pharmaceutically permissible salt set forth in ~~one out of Claims 10 to 13~~ wherein M ~~in the above formula (4)~~ is a sulfur atom.

15. **(Currently Amended):** A benzimidazole derivative or its pharmaceutically permissible salt set forth in ~~one out of Claims 10 to 14~~ wherein ~~B in the above formula (4)~~ is a substituted or unsubstituted C₁₋₆ normal, cyclic or branched alkylene group.

16. **(Currently Amended):** A benzimidazole derivative or its pharmaceutically permissible salt set forth in ~~one out of Claims 10 to 15~~ wherein ~~J in the above formula (4)~~ is a group expressed by the following formula (2) or (3),



[here, X³, X⁴ and X⁵ are each at the same time or independently a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a hydroxyl group, a nitro group, a cyano group, a trihalomethyl group, a trihalomethoxy group, -COOR⁷ (here, R⁷ is a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₄ alkyl group), a substituted or unsubstituted C₁₋₃ normal or branched alkyl group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₁₋₃ normal or branched alkoxy group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₁₋₃ normal or branched alkylthio group, a substituted or unsubstituted C₁₋₃ normal or branched alkylsulfonyl group, or a substituted or unsubstituted C₁₋₃ normal or branched alkylsulfinyl group; there is no limitation regarding the substitution positions of X³, X⁴ and X⁵ on the benzene ring or the naphthalene ring].

17. **(Currently Amended):** A benzimidazole derivative or its pharmaceutically permissible salt set forth in ~~one out of Claims 10 to 16~~ wherein ~~G in the above formula (4)~~ is

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-CH₂-, -CH₂CH₂-, -CH₂CO-, -CH₂CH₂O-, -CH₂CONH-, -CO-, -SO₂-, -CH₂SO₂-, -CH₂S- or
-CH₂CH₂S- (J bonds to the right side of said group).

18. **(Currently Amended):** A benzimidazole derivative or its pharmaceutically permissible salt set forth in ~~one out of~~ Claims 10 to 17 wherein E in the above formula (4) is -COOH.

A2
C254
19. **(Currently Amended):** A pharmaceutical composition consisting of a benzimidazole derivative and/or its pharmaceutically permissible salt set forth in any one ~~out of~~ Claims 10-18, and a pharmaceutically permissible carrier.

20. **(Currently Amended):** The method ~~A chymase activity inhibitor~~ set forth in any one out of Claims 1 and 4 to 9 wherein the targeted ~~whose targeting~~ disease is an inflammatory disease, an allergy disease, a respiratory disease, a cardiovascular disease or a bone/cartridge metabolic disease.

21. **(Currently Amended):** The method ~~A human chymase activity inhibitor~~ set forth in Claim 20 wherein the method prevents or treats ~~which is a preventing agent or a treating agent~~ of a disease in human beings.
